

MCL Coliform Violation (TCR22)
Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Exceeded: Non-Acute MCL Violation

The City of Horseshoe Bay, PWS ID 1500015, water system collected two separate water samples during July 2014 that contained coliform bacteria. This water system is required to submit a minimum of 9 routine water samples each month for bacteriological analysis. Two (2) routine samples were coliform found and zero (0) repeat samples were coliform-found for the month and year indicated above.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets drinking water standards in Texas and has determined that the presence of total coliform is a possible health concern. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

For water systems analyzing at least 40 samples per month, no more than five (5) percent of the monthly samples may be positive for total coliform. For systems analyzing fewer than 40 samples per month, no more than one (1) sample per month may be positive for total coliform.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Steve Hawley at (830) 598-9983.

The above message is mandatory language required by the TCEQ to be included in a public notification to all our customers. The reason for this notice is because two separate water samples were collected on July 8, 2014 and reported to have tested positive for total coliform bacteria. The city routinely monitors nine monthly samples for the presence of total coliform bacteria. In July 2014 this type of bacteria was detected in two of the routine tests. Four other samples taken that same day, as well as eleven other samples taken in July 2014 indicated an absence of coliform.. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customer you have a right to know what happened and what we did or are doing to correct the situation. **You do not need to boil your water.**

Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than are allowed for a water system of our size, and this was a warning of potential problems. The samples indicating the presence of coliform were further tested to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, were present. **None of these more harmful bacteria were found.** Within 24 hours of notification by the laboratory of the results, additional samples were taken at the sites of the positive coliform samples as well as additional samples upstream and downstream in the distribution system. All additional samples tested negative for the presence of coliform indicating the water supply to be safe.

The contamination may have been related to operator error in collecting the sample or at the lab, although there is no way confirm. It is our number one goal to ensure the safety of the water and we are taking additional steps in monitoring and operator training in sampling. If you have any questions on this issue please contact us at the number above or by e-mail at shawley@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov.